UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,717	04/04/2001	Richard W. Stoakley	MFCP.76395	3160

45809   7590   11/27/2006

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The amendment filed on 11 September 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 1-2

and 4-14 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,211,858 (hereinafter "Moon 1") and Moon U.S. Patent 6,385,662

(hereinafter "Moon 2").

Referring to claim 1, Moon 1 teaches a method comprising receiving one or more user

inputs associating at least one of a plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors with at least a

portion of said notification items (the users can select the notification items, i.e. the meter icons,

to be fixed or rotating) (Moon 1: column 7, lines 8-60), wherein at least one of said plurality of

user selectable hiding behaviors includes an inactivity hiding behavior that hides the

corresponding notification item icon when a preset threshold of inactivity with is met (the meter

icons are rotated based on time intervals; for example, the icon can be displayed for 5 seconds,

and if in that five seconds, there is no change of state, then the icon is rotated out of the display

and a new icon is displayed) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60), and

wherein at least one of said plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors displays the

corresponding notification item icon without regard to the preset threshold of inactivity (users

can choose meter icons to be fixed so that they are always displayed and not rotated out on a

time interval) (Moon 1: column 7, lines 8-60); monitoring an interval of time associated with an

activity of at least a portion of the notification items (the icons are displayed on a time interval;

for example, the icon can be displayed for 5 seconds; if it has been determined that it has been

five seconds and there is no change of state, then the icon is rotated out of the display and a new

icon is displayed) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); for each of at least

a portion of the notification items associated with the inactivity hiding behavior, hiding the

corresponding notification area icon from view after the preset threshold of inactivity with is met

(after the criteria of five seconds and no change of state is met, the icon is hidden, i.e. rotated out

of the display) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); and repeating the

monitoring and the hiding (once the icon is rotated out, the newly displayed icon is monitored for

the criteria of being displayed for 5 seconds and no change of state, before the new icon is

rotated out) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60). However, although

Moon 1 teaches monitoring some aspect associated with an item and redisplaying the hidden

notifications (the icons are displayed on a rotating basis, in and out of the display view) (Moon 1:

column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60), Moon 1 fails to explicitly redisplaying the

hidden notification area icons in the notification area upon receipt of a user input indicating a

desire to view the hidden notification area icons. Moon 2 teaches a graphical user interface for

displaying notification messages similar to that of Moon 1. In addition, Moon 2 further teaches

redisplaying the hidden notification area icons in the notification area upon receipt of a user

input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons (when the user wishes to

respond to an event, the history icon can be selected and the history file displaying the hidden

events are accessed) (Moon 2: column 5, lines 7-9). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Moon 1 and Moon 2 before him at the time the

invention was made, to modify the user interface for selectively hiding a group of notification

items of Moon 1 to include the redisplay of the hidden notification items upon user input taught

by Moon 2. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to give users a

choice in when to respond to certain events; for example, it may be inconvenient for the user to

respond to an event when the event occurs because the user could be doing other work and

would rather postpone taking action in response to the occurred event until a more convenient

time.

Referring to claim 2, Moon 1, as modified, teach arranging the notification area items

(message icons) in the order in which the notifications occur (as more notifications are received,

they are each displayed on the status bar) (Moon 2: column 3, lines 10-13 and column 4, lines

17-22).

Referring to claim 4, Moon 1, as modified, teach determining the occurrence of activity

on the monitored and hidden item, and revealing the item by redisplaying the item upon the

occurrence of activity (when one of the meters changes states, i.e. occurrence of activity, then the

meter icon is rotated into the display to be displayed immediately) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-

44).

Referring to claim 5, Moon 1, as modified, teach revealing the icons in order of the most

recently active application through display of the notification icons that has the most recent level

of activity. When the user selects the history icon, a history file showing an event log of hidden

messages are displayed with information such as time, date, etc. (Moon 2: column 5, lines 39-

50); therefore, the user can respond to the event messages according to the most recently active

application, or the most recent event message. Furthermore, Moon 1 teaches that an icon with a

newly changed state is rotated into the display to be displayed immediately (Moon 1: column 6,

lines 33-44).

Referring to claim 6, Moon 1, as modified, teach a computer-readable storage medium

containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1

(personal communication assistant "PCA") (Moon 2: column 1, lines 6-15).

Referring to claim 7, Moon 1, as modified, teach a computer system having a processor,

memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method

recited in claim 1 (personal communication assistant "PCA") (Moon 2: column 1, lines 6-15).

Referring to claim 8, Moon 1 teaches a method comprising displaying each of the

notification item icons in the notification area (displaying the meter icons in the meter display

area) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); providing a set of user

selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with at least a portion of the notification item icons

(the users can select the notification items, i.e. the meter icons, to be fixed or rotating) (Moon 1:

column 7, lines 8-60), wherein at least one of the set of user selectable hiding behaviors includes

an inactivity hiding behavior that hides one or more of the notification item icons when a preset

threshold of inactivity with is met (the meter icons are rotated based on time intervals; for

example, the icon can be displayed for 5 seconds, and if in that five seconds, there is no change

of state, then the icon is rotated out of the display and a new icon is displayed) (Moon 1: column

6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); hiding one or more notification item icons associated

with the inactivity hiding behavior upon meeting the preset threshold of inactivity (after the

criteria of five seconds and no change of state is met, the icon is hidden, i.e. rotated out of the

display) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); and repeating the hiding after

the preset threshold of inactivity is met (once the icon is rotated out, the newly displayed icon is

monitored for the criteria of being displayed for 5 seconds and no change of state, before the new

icon is rotated out) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60). However, Moon

1 fails to explicitly teach retrieving a chevron icon, displaying the chevron icon, and upon receipt

of a user input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons, repeating the

displaying each of the notification item icons in the notification area, and removing the chevron

icon when there are no more hidden items. Moon 2 teaches a graphical user interface for

displaying notification messages similar to that of Moon 1. In addition, Moon 2 further teaches

retrieving and displaying a chevron icon (displaying a history icon) (Moon 2: column 4, line 49 -

column 5, line 4 and column 5, lines 39-50); upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to

view the hidden notification area icons, repeating the displaying each of the notification item

icons in the notification area (when the user wishes to respond to an event, the history icon can

be selected and the history file displaying the hidden events are accessed) (Moon 2: column 5,

lines 7-9); and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items (removing the

history icon once the user's response is complete, i.e., there are no more messages in the history

file) (Moon 2: column 4, line 49 - column 5, line 4 and column 5, lines 39-50). It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Moon 1 and Moon 2

before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user interface for selectively hiding

a group of notification items of Moon 1 to include the chevron icon and the redisplay of the

hidden notification items upon user input taught by Moon 2. One would have been motivated to

make such a combination in order to give users a choice in when to respond to certain events; for

example, it may be inconvenient for the user to respond to an event when the event occurs

because the user could be doing other work and would rather postpone taking action in response

to the occurred event until a more convenient time.

Referring to claim 9, Moon 1, as modified, teach receiving a chevron entry selection

signal indicative of user selection of the chevron icon, and in response to the chevron selection

signal, displaying each of the hidden notification items on the display (Moon teaches receiving

user selection of the history icon and displaying the hidden history file and consequently the

messages representing event notifications within the history file) (Moon 2: column 4, lines 39-

50).

Referring to claim 10, Moon 1, as modified, teach the unhide criteria being met when an

entry selection signal indicative of a user selection of the notification item icon is selected by the

user from the displayed, previously hidden icons (Moon teaches that when the user selects the

history icon, therefore satisfying an unhide criteria, the previously hidden history file and

consequently the messages representing event notifications within the history file, are displayed

to the user) (Moon 2: column 4, lines 39-50).

Referring to claim 11, Moon 1, as modified, teach displaying the notification item icon in

the notification area on the display in response to the selection (when the user wishes to respond

to an event, the history icon can be selected and the history file displaying the hidden events are

accessed) (Moon 2: column 5, lines 7-9).

Referring to claim 12, Moon 1, as modified, teach the notification item icon is placed to the far left of the notification area (the message or notification display area represented by character 121 is on the left hand side of the notification area, or status bar represented by reference character 120, shown in Figure 1 of Moon 2).

Referring to claim 13, Moon 1, as modified, teach a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA") (Moon 2: column 1, lines 6-15).

Referring to claim 14, Moon 1, as modified, teach a computer system having a processor, memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA") (Moon 2: column 1, lines 6-15).

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 4-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4.   The applicant argues that Moon (Moon 2) teaches away from varying the displaying/hiding characteristics of different notification items because Moon eliminates the different categories of messages. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Moon 2 teaches that incoming events/messages are determined to be either "local" or "global" (column 4, lines 29-48). Therefore, Moon 2 teaches the division of messages into two different categories, namely local and global messages. In view of the above, the examiner respectfully argues that Moon 2 does not teach away from the different categories of messages.

5.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

Kieu Vu
Primary Examiner